

last name. After World War II, he became an industrial engineer in the food industry, designing food processing plants. He retired over 20 years ago.

Herb has been on the executive board of the California Democratic Party, twice a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America since it was founded in 1990, and a founding member and participant of the Federation of Gay Games. He was one of four gay and lesbian veterans who participated in a nation-wide bus tour in 1993, promoting equal rights for gays and lesbians in military service. Herb currently writes a regular column for the San Diego Gay and Lesbian Times and is a member of the San Diego Gay and Lesbian Band.

The Sheila Kuehl Leadership Award that Herb is receiving is named for California State Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl. The proceeds from this Memorial Dinner will be dedicated to building California's first Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Veterans Memorial in Palm Springs.

As a Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am pleased to recognize Herb King for his military service to our nation and for his friendship and support.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAGINAW

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and give thanks to the First Congregational Church of Saginaw for the devotion its members have shown to the community, serving as a beacon of hope to those mistakenly sounding the death knell for a vibrant city on the cusp of a renaissance.

The church's story is one of survival and perseverance through many struggles, toils and tears. Members first gathered together in 1857, constructing the present church building in Romanesque Revival style in 1868 with plans by Detroit architect Gordon W. Lloyd. A fellowship hall, school wing, the Bethlehem Chapel and the former Mary E. Dow House designed by Alden B. Dow were added later.

Visitors to First Congregational cannot help but cast an awestruck eye on its elegant beauty and the inspiration its sanctuary gives to all who stand in it. The original sanctuary windows were replaced with magnificent stained glass, adding a special touch to the stately 1913 Louis Comfort Tiffany window in the north transept. The church, a bulwark ever-changing, did more building and restoration in 1973 following a fire that destroyed the sanctuary roof.

Churches, however, are more than bricks and mortar. First Congregational members have included names familiar to Saginaw's history, such as Morley, Wickes and Frank Andersen. Today's members continue to take a lead-by-example approach by participating in PRIDE, the East Side Soup Kitchen, Hidden Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, the Saginaw Community Foundation, the Saginaw Choral Society and many other groups. With an an-

nual Musical Arts Concert, they also offer an ear-pleasing addition to the city's cultural bounty.

Recently, the church agreed to provide college scholarships to all incoming Central Intermediate School sixth-grade students who graduate from high school and go on to college.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly is a church that has taken its Christian mission to heart by not abandoning Saginaw, but instead acting as a good neighbor in finding ways to improve the lives of its residents.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACKSON COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 75th anniversary of the Jackson County League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters of the United States was formed in 1920 by suffragettes who wanted to ensure that the newly enfranchised women would be informed about the voting process and about how to vote. Five years later, a group of women in Jackson County began a league locally.

For 75 years the Jackson County League of Women Voters has helped all voters, men and women, to prepare for elections. The League has held demonstrations on how to vote, sponsored forums for candidates to explain their views and published election guides. For several decades, League members have served in Jackson County as deputy registrars, registering voters at local events and stores.

The League believes in open and accountable government. Locally, it promoted the City Manager form of government for the City of Carbondale and has studied the professionalization of and the various forms of both city and county government. For many years before the advent of the Open Meetings Act which requires that public bodies post agendas and hold open meetings, the League sent observers to many public meetings as a reminder to public officials about the citizens whom they serve.

The Jackson County League of Women Voters has also helped to desegregate the schools, integrate the neighborhoods, develop recycling and other environmental programs, create standards for large scale livestock farms and ensure the safety of the drinking water. The League has also published a guide to mental health services in the County and a booklet about county offices. Nationally, the League has studied issues as wide-ranging as national security, urban transportation and health care.

Currently, the League of Jackson County is working to break the cycle of violence in children by ending aggressive behavior in schools, a project through the local health department. It is examining the forms of election of Illinois State legislators and promoting cam-

paign finance reform. The League sponsors a series of talks by local county officials on local issues. It is studying the need for a new County Courthouse and other facilities. The League is also encouraging voters to take a friend to vote, as a means to encourage citizens to vote. The League of Women Voters adheres to the belief that democracy is not a spectator sport.

The League of Women Voters is open to men and women, at least 18 years of age. The League is non-partisan, but involved in many efforts in our communities. Always, the focus of the League is encouraging active citizen involvement and participation in the community and in the government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the men and women of Jackson County on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Jackson County League of Women Voters.

IN SUPPORT OF VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the leadership of the House of Representatives to schedule floor action on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which expires this year.

The Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1248, was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee on June 27, 2000. With 216 co-sponsors, H.R. 1248 enjoys strong bipartisan support. It reauthorizes current VAWA grant programs for 5 years, makes targeted improvements, and adds important new programs.

The passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 was one of the greatest accomplishments of the 103rd Congress and the Clinton Administration. Since 1995, VAWA grants have provided a major source of funding for national and local programs to reduce rape, stalking, and domestic violence. The 1994 Act bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases; provided services for victims by funding shelters and sexual assault crisis centers; increased resources for law enforcement and prosecutors; and created a National Domestic Violence Hotline.

VAWA has made a difference in the lives of millions of women, but we need to do more. We must ensure that we adequately address the needs of all victims of domestic violence and sexual assault including immigrant women, older women, women with disabilities, and women of color. We must help women who are trying to escape domestic violence by providing transitional housing and legal assistance services.

H.R. 1248 vastly improves VAWA by strengthening the existing provisions and by adding new provisions to address dating violence, reach underserved populations, facilitate enforcement of state and tribal protective orders nationwide, provide transitional housing, create programs for supervised visitation